

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PO

SUBJ: CATHOLIC LABOR GROUPS BEGINNING TO ORGANIZE

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SUMMARY: CATHOLIC WORKERS LEAGUE (LOC) HAS HELD MEETING OF 200 REPRESENTATIVES TO RESHAPE STRUCTURE OF LEAGUE AND STRENGTHEN ITS INFLUENCE AMONG WORKERS. NEW CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION CALLED DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCE HAS BEEN FOUNDED, AND NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR CHRISTIAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN ESTABLISHED. THESE GROUPS, WHICH MAY NOT EVOLVE INTO LABOR UNIONS, MAY BECOME SIGNIFICANT AS ROOSTING PLACES FOR NON-COMMUNIST LABOR ACTIVISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WORKERS LEAGUE MET AT FATIMA JUNE 8-10 TO STREAMLINE INTERNAL STRUCTURES, SELECT NEW LEADERS, AND HAMMER OUT ACTION PROGRAM TO EXPAND THEIR SERVICES AND INFLUENCE AMONG WORKERS. LOC IS AN OLD, ESTABLISHED CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AMONG WORKERS, SO FAR AS WE KNOW. IT IS ORGANIZED ON DIOCESAN LINES. FATIMA MEETING DREW 200 REPRESENTATIVES FROM 12 OF PORTUGAL'S 16 DIOCESES, ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGUESE "WORKERS' CATHOLIC ACTION" GROUP IN FRANCE, AND OBSERVERS FROM WORLD MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS, FRENCH ACTION CATHOLIQUE OUVRIERE, SPANISH HERMANDADES OBRERAS DE ACCION CATOLICA, AND BELGIAN KALOTIEKE WERKLIEDENBONDEN.

2. LOC DECIDED TO SCRAP PREVIOUS STRUCTURE OF SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN, AND ELECTED MARIA DA NATIVIDADE CARDOSO PRSIDENT AND EMIDIO FERREIRA MARTINS NATIONAL SECRETARY OF NEW UNIFIED BODY. REV. JOSE RODRIGO DA SILVA MENDES HAS BEEN SELECTED (APPARENTLY BY HIERARCHY) NATIONAL CHAPLAIN. LOC ISSUED COMMUNIQUE AT CLOSE OF MEETING CALLING FOR UPLIFTING OF POOREST CLASSES AND FOR "POLITICAL OPTIONS WIHCH TEND TOWARD A GROWING SOCIALIZATION, IN WHICH WORKERS WILL HAVE A DECISIVE ROLE".

3. CATHOLIC ACTIVISTS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH LOC (AND PROBABLY HOSTILE TO IT) HAVE ESTABLISHED NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCE(FDT). KEY LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE MANUEL ALPIARCA, ACCOUNTANT WITH LISBON DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, AND CARLOS AUGUSTO FERNANDES
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DE ALMEIDA. WE HAVE HEARD THAT BOTH MEN HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN BELGIUM WITH JEUNESSE OUVRIERE CATHOLIQUE.

4. WE HAVE HEARD THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF UNSPECIFIED CHRISTIAN LABOR GROUPS HAVE FORMED A NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHOSE PRESIDENT IS NAMED CESARIO BORG. ONE JOSE DIAZ IS SAID TO BE ACTING AS "TECHNICAL ADVISOR" TO COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

5. COMMENT: WHETHER CATHOLIC OR OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE SYNDICAL STRUCTURE WILL HAVE A CHANGE TO BECOME UNIONS WILL DEPEND IN LARGE PART ON LEGISLATION NOW BEING DRAFTED BY A COMMITTEE HEADED BY SOCIALIST LAWYER LOPES DE ALMEIDA. CHRISTIAN GROUPS, EVEN IF THEY REMAIN UNOFFICIAL ASSOCIATIONS OUTSIDE OF REPRESENTATIVE SYNDICATE STRUCTURE, MAY BECOME INFLUENTIAL IN LABOR FIELD, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ATTRACT MILITANT LABOR LEADERS WHO WISH TO WORK OUTSIDE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GROUPS.
SCOTT

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